

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1           1. (Currently amended): In a data delivery system having a data server in  
2 data communication with plural network devices, a method of changing a current network device  
3 attribute of a target network device, said method comprising steps of:

4                 transmitting first information from said data server to said target network device,  
5 said first information comprising at least one new network device attribute;  
6                 storing said at least one new network device attribute in said target network  
7 device;

8                 transmitting second information from said data server to said target network  
9 device including incorporating said second information in a data packet destined for a client; and  
10                 in response to receiving said second information, changing said current network  
11 device attribute of said target network device in accordance with said at least one new network  
12 device attribute; and

13                 forwarding said data packet by transmitting it from said target network device,  
14                 wherein changing said current network device attribute is performed prior to said  
15                 forwarding.

1           2. (Previously presented): The method claim 1 wherein said at least one  
2 network device attribute includes a QoS setting.

1           3. (Original): The method of claim 1 wherein said first information includes  
2 an address of said target network device.

4 - 5. (Canceled)

1           6. (Currently amended): ~~The method of claim 4 further including~~ In a data  
2 delivery system having a data server in data communication with plural network devices, a  
3 method of changing a current network device attribute of a target network device, said method  
4 comprising steps of:

5                 transmitting first information from said data server to said target network device,  
6 said first information comprising at least one new network device attribute;  
7                 storing said at least one new network device attribute in said target network  
8 device;

9                 transmitting second information from said data server to said target network  
10 device including incorporating said second information in a data packet destined for a client;  
11                 in response to receiving said second information, changing said current network  
12 device attribute of said target network device in accordance with said at least one new network  
13 device attribute; and

14                 forwarding said data packet by transmitting it from said target network device,  
15 wherein said step of changing said current network device attribute is performed subsequent to  
16 said step of forwarding.

1           7. (Currently amended): ~~The method of claim 1 In a data delivery system~~  
2 having a data server in data communication with plural network devices, a method of changing a  
3 current network device attribute of a target network device, said method comprising steps of:  
4                 transmitting first information from said data server to said target network device,  
5 said first information comprising at least one new network device attribute;  
6                 storing said at least one new network device attribute in said target network  
7 device;  
8                 transmitting second information from said data server to said target network  
9 device; and  
10                 in response to receiving said second information, changing said current network  
11 device attribute of said target network device in accordance with said at least one new network  
12 device attribute,

13           wherein said step of transmitting said second information includes incorporating  
14    said second information in a data packet that is not destined for a client.

1           8. (Original): The method of claim 1 wherein said step of transmitting said  
2    first information includes incorporation said first information in a data packet destined for a  
3    client.

1           9. (Original): The method of claim 1 wherein said step of transmitting said  
2    first information includes incorporating said first information in a data packet that is not destined  
3    for a client.

1           10. (Currently amended): In a data delivery system having a data server in  
2    data communication with plural network devices, a method of changing a quality of service  
3    (QoS) of a target network device, said method comprising steps of:

4           transmitting first information from said data server to said target network device,  
5    said first information representing a new QoS and comprising at least one QoS parameter;

6           storing said at least one QoS parameter in said target network device;

7           transmitting second information from said data server to said target network  
8    device including incorporating said second information in a data packet destined for a client; and  
9           in response to receiving said second information, changing said QoS of said target  
10   network device in accordance with said stored QoS parameter, thereby putting into effect said  
11   new QoS; and

12           forwarding said data packet by transmitting it from said target network device,  
13    wherein said step of changing said QoS is performed prior to said step of forwarding.

1           11. (Original): The method of claim 10 wherein said first information  
2    includes an address of said target network device.

12 - 13.      (Canceled)

1           14. (Currently amended): ~~The method of claim 12 further including~~ In a data  
2 delivery system having a data server in data communication with plural network devices, a  
3 method of changing a quality of service (QoS) of a target network device, said method  
4 comprising steps of:

5                 transmitting first information from said data server to said target network device,  
6 said first information representing a new QoS and comprising at least one QoS parameter;  
7                 storing said at least one QoS parameter in said target network device;  
8                 transmitting second information from said data server to said target network  
9 device including incorporating said second information in a data packet destined for a client;  
10                 in response to receiving said second information, changing said QoS of said target  
11 network device in accordance with said stored QoS parameter, thereby putting into effect said  
12 new QoS; and

13                 forwarding said data packet by transmitting it from said target network device,  
14 wherein said step of changing said QoS is performed subsequent to said step of forwarding.

1           15. (Currently amended): ~~The method of claim 10~~ In a data delivery system  
2 having a data server in data communication with plural network devices, a method of changing a  
3 quality of service (QoS) of a target network device, said method comprising steps of:

4                 transmitting first information from said data server to said target network device,  
5 said first information representing a new QoS and comprising at least one QoS parameter;  
6                 storing said at least one QoS parameter in said target network device;  
7                 transmitting second information from said data server to said target network  
8 device; and  
9                 in response to receiving said second information, changing said QoS of said target  
10 network device in accordance with said stored QoS parameter, thereby putting into effect said  
11 new QoS,

12                 wherein said step of transmitting said second information includes incorporating  
13 said second information in a data packet that is not destined for a client.

1               16. (Currently amended): The method of claim 10 wherein said step of  
2 transmitting said first information includes incorporating ~~on~~ said first information in a data packet  
3 destined for a client.

1               17. (Original): The method of claim 10 wherein said step of transmitting said  
2 first information includes incorporating said first information in a data packet that is not destined  
3 for a client.

1               18. (Original): The method of claim 10 further including accumulating list of  
2 plural entries in said target network device, each entry having at least one QoS parameter.

1               19. (Original): The method of claim 10 wherein said first information is a list  
2 of plural entries, each entry having at least one QoS parameter.

1               20. (Original): The method of claim 19 wherein said second information  
2 includes an index and said step of changing said QoS includes indexing into said list on the basis  
3 of said index.

21 - 30.       (Canceled)

1               31. (Currently amended): In a network device, a method for setting a quality  
2 of service (QoS) configuration comprising steps of:  
3               acquiring at least one QoS parameter from an external source;  
4               receiving data packets from said external source, first types of which are to be  
5 transmitted from said network device and second types of which are to be retained within said  
6 network device;  
7               for each received data packet, inspecting it for information of a first kind; and  
8               in response to detecting said information of said first kind, setting said QoS  
9 configuration in accordance with said at least one QoS parameter,

10           wherein said information of said first kind is contained in a data packet of a first  
11 type and said step of setting said QoS configuration is performed prior to transmitting said data  
12 packet.

32.       (Canceled)

1           33.       (Currently amended): ~~The method of claim 31~~ In a network device, a  
2 method for setting a quality of service (QoS) configuration comprising steps of:  
3       acquiring at least one QoS parameter from an external source;  
4       receiving data packets from said external source, first types of which are to be  
5 transmitted from said network device and second types of which are to be retained within said  
6 network device;  
7       for each received data packet, inspecting it for information of a first kind; and  
8       in response to detecting said information of said first kind, setting said QoS  
9 configuration in accordance with said at least one QoS parameter,

10           wherein said information of said first kind is contained in a data packet of a first  
11 type, said step of setting said QoS configuration is performed subsequent to transmitting said  
12 first type of data packet.

13       34.       (Canceled).

1           35.       (Original): The method of claim 31 wherein said step of acquiring at least  
2 one QoS parameter includes extracting said at least one QoS parameter from a received data  
3 packet.

1           36.       (Original): The method of claim 35 wherein said at least one QoS  
2 parameter is contained in a data packet of a first type.

37.       (Canceled)

1           38. (Previously presented): The method of claim 31 further including  
2 producing a list of plural entries, each entry containing one or more QoS parameters, said list  
3 thereby defining a list of QoS configurations.

1           39. (Previously presented): The method of claim 31 wherein said step of  
2 acquiring at least one QoS parameter includes receiving a list of QoS parameters, said list  
3 containing plural entries, each entry containing one or more QoS parameters.

1           40. (Previously presented): The method of claim 39 wherein said information  
2 of said first kind includes index information and said step of setting said QoS configuration  
3 includes indexing into said list based on said index information.

1           41. (Original): A network device comprising:  
2                 network circuitry configured for connection to a network, said network circuitry  
3 effective for receiving data packets from said network;  
4                 data monitoring circuitry in data communication with said network circuitry and  
5 configured to detect the presence of a received data packet containing first information;  
6                 control circuitry operatively coupled to said network circuitry and to said data  
7 monitoring circuitry;  
8                 a memory in data communication with said control circuitry and configured to  
9 contain service information including a current quality of service (QoS) setting;  
10                first program code to operate said control circuitry in a manner to receive one or  
11 more externally provided QoS parameters; and  
12                second program code to operate said control circuitry in a manner to alter said  
13 service information in accordance with said QoS parameters in response to said data  
14 communication circuitry detecting said received data packet containing said first information,  
15 thereby changing said current QoS setting.

1           42. (Previously presented): The device of claim 41 wherein said data  
2 monitoring circuitry is a portion of said memory, said portion being configured to contain a third  
3 program to operate said control circuitry in a manner to detect said first information in said  
4 received data packet.

1           43. (Original): The device of claim 41 further including third program code to  
2 operate said control circuitry in a manner to transmit said received data packets, said second  
3 program code and said third program code configured so that said QoS is altered prior to  
4 transmission of the received data packet containing said first information.

1           44. (Original): The device of claim 41 further including third program code to  
2 operate said control circuitry in a manner to transmit said received data packets, said second  
3 program code and said third program code configured so that said QoS is altered subsequent to  
4 transmission of the received data packet containing said first information.

1           45. (Original): The device of claim 41 wherein said one or more QoS  
2 parameters are contained in at least one of said received data packets.

1           46. (Original): The device of claim 41 wherein said received data packets  
2 include first type data packets which are transmitted from said network device and second type  
3 data packets which are retained in said network device, said first information being contained in  
4 said second type data packets.

1           47. (Original): The device of claim 41 wherein said received data packets  
2 include first type data packets which are transmitted from said network device and second type  
3 data packets which are retained in said network device, said one or more QoS parameters being  
4 contained in said second type data packets.

1           48. (Original): The device of claim 41 further including second memory  
2 configured to contain a list of plural QoS settings, each QoS setting comprising at least one QoS  
3 parameter.

1           49. (Original): The device of claim 41 wherein said first information is a list  
2 containing plural entries of QoS parameters, each entry of QoS parameters representing a  
3 different QoS setting.

1           50. (Original): The device of claim 49 wherein said first information includes  
2 index information effective for specifying an entry in said list, said index information thereby  
3 specifying one of said QoS settings.

51 - 57.       (Canceled)

1           58. (New): The method claim 6 wherein said at least one network device  
2 attribute includes a QoS setting.

1           59. (New): The method of claim 6 wherein said first information includes an  
2 address of said target network device.

1           60. (New): The method of claim 6 wherein said step of transmitting said first  
2 information includes incorporation said first information in a data packet destined for a client.

1           61. (New): The method of claim 6 wherein said step of transmitting said first  
2 information includes incorporating said first information in a data packet that is not destined for  
3 a client.

1           62. (New): The method claim 7 wherein said at least one network device  
2 attribute includes a QoS setting.

1           63. (New): The method of claim 7 wherein said first information includes an  
2 address of said target network device.

1           64. (New): The method of claim 7 wherein said step of transmitting said first  
2 information includes incorporation said first information in a data packet destined for a client.

1           65. (New): The method of claim 7 wherein said step of transmitting said first  
2 information includes incorporating said first information in a data packet that is not destined for  
3 a client.

1           66. (New): The method of claim 14 wherein said first information includes an  
2 address of said target network device.

1           67. (New): The method of claim 14 wherein said step of transmitting said  
2 first information includes incorporating said first information in a data packet destined for a  
3 client.

1           68. (New): The method of claim 14 wherein said step of transmitting said  
2 first information includes incorporating said first information in a data packet that is not destined  
3 for a client.

1           69. (New): The method of claim 14 further including accumulating list of  
2 plural entries in said target network device, each entry having at least one QoS parameter.

1           70. (New): The method of claim 14 wherein said first information is a list of  
2 plural entries, each entry having at least one QoS parameter.

1           71. (New): The method of claim 70 wherein said second information includes  
2 an index and said step of changing said QoS includes indexing into said list on the basis of said  
3 index.

1           72. (New): The method of claim 15 wherein said first information includes an  
2 address of said target network device.

1           73. (New): The method of claim 15 wherein said step of transmitting said  
2 first information includes incorporating said first information in a data packet destined for a  
3 client.

1           74. (New): The method of claim 15 wherein said step of transmitting said  
2 first information includes incorporating said first information in a data packet that is not destined  
3 for a client.

1           75. (New): The method of claim 15 further including accumulating list of  
2 plural entries in said target network device, each entry having at least one QoS parameter.

1           76. (New): The method of claim 15 wherein said first information is a list of  
2 plural entries, each entry having at least one QoS parameter.

1           77. (New): The method of claim 76 wherein said second information includes  
2 an index and said step of changing said QoS includes indexing into said list on the basis of said  
3 index.

1           78. (New): The method of claim 33 wherein said step of acquiring at least one  
2 QoS parameter includes extracting said at least one QoS parameter from a received data packet.

1           79. (New): The method of claim 78 wherein said at least one QoS parameter  
2 is contained in a data packet of a first type.

1           80. (New): The method of claim 33 further including producing a list of  
2 plural entries, each entry containing one or more QoS parameters, said list thereby defining a list  
3 of QoS configurations.

1           81. (New): The method of claim 33 wherein said step of acquiring at least one  
2    QoS parameter includes receiving a list of QoS parameters, said list containing plural entries,  
3    each entry containing one or more QoS parameters.

1           82. (New): The method of claim 81 wherein said information of said first  
2    kind includes index information and said step of setting said QoS configuration includes  
3    indexing into said list based on said index information.